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10/718,021	11/19/2003	Brian J. Taylor	04AB026/YOD ALBR:0142/YOD	8807
7590 09/01/2009 Alexander M. Gerasimow Allen-Bradley Company, LLC 1201 South Second Street Milwaukee, WI 53204-2496			EXAMINER PATEL, DHARTI HARIDAS	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/718,021	Applicant(s) TAYLOR, BRIAN J.	
	Examiner DHARTI PATEL	Art Unit 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 14-26, 28-34, 51-53, 56-63, 65, 67, 70, 72, 73 and 76-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 83-88 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 14-26, 28-34, 51-53, 56-63, 65, 67, 70, 72-73 and 76-82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group 1 in the reply filed on 3/24/2009 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there is no serious burden on the examiner; and that newly added independent claim 83 is generic, since the restriction is drawn on the modular control unit being laterally next to the machine protection device (dependent claim 84). This is not found persuasive because the newly added set of claims 83-88 *as a group* that represents a different species. As a group, the new claims (83-88) added features such as accommodating only **one type of modular control unit mounted laterally next to the machine mountable base** classified in class 361, subclass 23; whereas the original group I (claims 1-15, 65 and 16-26, 67 and 31-33, 70, 77 and 34, 52-53, 56- 63, 72-73 and 51,78) are drawn to a motor control unit selectable from **a plurality of different types of motor control units**, classified in class 361, subclass 614,731. The ability to accommodate a plurality of different types of motor control units is a different patentable feature from over accepting only one type mounted laterally. New claim 83 additionally recites a wiring panel, a distinct feature not found in the original claims.

The "lack of burden" statement is not agreed with either, since burden is predicated upon the examiner having to search separate inventions exhaustively, including different classes/subclasses and/or keywords. In this case, the examiner has to do both. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-9 and 14-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Knox et al. Publication No. 2004/0252421.

With respect to Claim 1, Knox discloses a controller for a machine, comprising: a machine mountable base [Fig. 3, the base comprises stacked modules- DSP housing 46, transformer housing 44, and housing base 41; par. 0020, the modular base housing portion] comprising a motor protection device housed in the base [Fig. 3 the Digital Signal Processor DSP 55 in housing 46; par. 0008] and a network terminal [Fig. 1, RS 485 communications 8; par. 0147 lines 8-11; par 0027. Note: interpreted in view of applicant's spec at par. 0013 and 0015] configured to connect the base to a central or remote system via a power and data distribution structure; and a modular control unit [Fig. 5 modular control unit 2 containing microcontroller 75; par. 0104] replaceably mountable to the machine mountable base [par. 0030; all components are mounted to housing base 41 and are modularized/replaceable], wherein the modular control unit comprises control circuitry [modular control unit 2 contains microcontroller 75] configured to control the machine [the circuitry of microcomputer 75 allows the user to enter control commands and receive status updates of the motor being controlled- par.

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0104-0109. The machine being controlled is the low voltage motor mentioned in paragraph 0002] and a machine connection terminal [Fig. 1, terminal blocks 10, 11; par. 0085] configured to enable the modular control unit to couple directly with the machine [terminal blocks 10, 11 is wired to the user's motor/machine].

With respect to Claim 2, Knox discloses the motor protection device comprises a short-circuit protective device [col. 1 lines 0010 state ground faults are protected against. A ground fault is a type of short circuit condition. For illustrative purposes only, see the EC&M document enclosed. Fig. 4 trip contact relay 66 is a short circuit protective device that works in conjunction with the DSP; par. 0101. Line fuses 68 also provide short circuit/overload protection par. 0102].

With respect to Claim 3, Knox discloses the short-circuit protective device comprises an instantaneous trip [par. 0101, no time delay in tripping is specified, therefore the trip occurs instantaneously].

With respect to Claim 4, Knox discloses the short-circuit protective device comprises a magnetic circuit breaker [Fig. 4 trip contact 66 comprises a magnetic coil].

With respect to Claim 5, Knox discloses the motor protection device comprises a disconnect device [par. 0101; disconnect occurs via trip contact relay 66 which controls the on/off of the users motor contactor/circuit breaker].

With respect to Claim 6, Knox discloses the disconnect device comprises a local lockout [par. 0101- failsafe trip contact control circuit 65 electrically resets the users motor contactor/circuit breaker if it senses a failure in the DSP; and par. 0095 lines 16-

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22- reset supervisor 64 electrically locks out the DSP if operating conditions are unreliable; par. 0147- software will lockout the trip contacts from being reset].

With respect to Claim 7, Knox discloses the modular control unit comprises an overload protection device and a contactor [Fig. 4 trip contact relay 66 is an overload protection device that works in conjunction with the DSP 55, par. 0101].

With respect to Claim 8, Knox discloses the modular control unit comprises a programmable electronic overload [the device is a digital programmable motor overload relay; par. 0002; par. 0109 programming inputs entered through interface keypad 6].

With respect to Claim 9, Knox discloses the modular control unit comprises an electromagnetic contactor [Fig. 4 trip contact relay 66 with coil].

With respect to Claim 14, Knox discloses the machine mountable base comprises at least one sensor terminal [Fig. 3 terminal 36 connecting to current transformer 37; par. 0090].

With respect to Claim 15, Knox discloses the machine mountable base comprises at least one actuator terminal [Fig. 3 trip contacts 33].

With respect to Claim 16, Knox discloses a motor controller [Fig. 1 digital programmable motor overload protector 1], comprising: a motor mountable base [Fig. 3, the base comprises stacked modules- DSP housing 46, transformer housing 44, and housing base 41; par. 0020, the modular base housing portion] comprising a short-circuit tripping disconnect [Fig. 4 trip contact relay 66 is a short circuit protective device that works in conjunction with the DSP 55]; and a replaceable control unit [Fig. 5

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modular control unit 2 containing microcontroller 75; par. 0104; the module is replaceable] removably coupled to the motor mountable base, wherein the replaceable control unit comprises control circuitry [modular control unit 2 contains microcontroller 75] configured to control a motor [the circuitry of microcomputer 75 allows the user to enter commands and receive status updates of the motor being controlled- par. 0104-0109. The machine configured to be controlled is any of the low voltage motors mentioned in paragraph 0002] and a motor connection terminal [Fig. 1, terminal blocks 10, 11; par. 0085] configured to enable the modular control unit to couple directly with the motor [terminal blocks 10, 11 is wired to the user's motor/machine].

With respect to Claim 17, Knox discloses the short-circuit tripping disconnect comprises a magnetically tripping disconnect [Fig. 4 trip contact 66 comprises a magnetic coil].

With respect to Claim 18, Knox discloses the short-circuit tripping disconnect comprises a disconnect lockout [par. 0101- disconnect occurs via trip contact relay 66 which controls the on/off of the users motor contactor/circuit breaker. Failsafe trip contact control circuit 65 electrically resets the users motor contactor/circuit breaker if it senses a failure in the DSP; and par. 0095 lines 16-22- reset supervisor 64 electrically locks out the DSP if operating conditions are unreliable; par. 0147- software will lockout the trip contacts from being reset].

With respect to Claim 19, Knox discloses the motor mountable base comprises at least one communication terminal [par 0027].

With respect to Claim 20, Knox discloses that the at least one communication terminal comprises a machine network terminal adapter to facilitate networking of a plurality of machine components [par. 0027].

With respect to Claim 21, Knox discloses the replaceable control unit comprises an adjustable overload [the device is a digital programmable motor overload relay and therefore adjustable; par. 0002; par. 0109 programming inputs entered through interface keypad 6] and a contactor [Fig. 4 trip contact relay 66].

With respect to Claim 24, Knox discloses the replaceable control unit comprises at least one monitoring device [Fig. 3 terminal 36 connecting to current transformer 37; par. 0090].

With respect to Claim 25, Knox discloses the replaceable control unit comprises at least one diagnostic device [par. 0212 Table U3- FAIL DIAG code signals internal DSP diagnostic failure].

With respect to Claim 26, Knox discloses the replaceable control unit comprises at least one manual control mechanism [par. 0147 critical failure will result in a lockout. Par. 0215 Table U6 commands UAR and OAR- manual reset is required to clear the trip, Fig. 1 button 7, par. 0015].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 16, 31, 34, 51, and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown et al., U.S. 6,388,563.

With respect to Claims 1, 16 and 51, Brown discloses a machine, comprising: a motor [col. 1 lines 17-25]; and a motor controller [Fig. 1, 100; col. 1 lines 46-52], comprising: a modular base [Fig. 1, 300] comprising motor protection circuitry [col. 9 lines 3-14]; such as a short circuit tripping disconnect [col. 10 lines 15-23] which is mounted in the base; and **a modular motor control unit** [Fig. 1, 200] coupled to the modular base [col. 2 lines 24-45] and comprising motor control circuitry [col. 3 lines 36-44] cooperatively operable with the motor protection circuitry, wherein the modular motor control unit is selectively replaceable from a plurality of different types of motor control units [col. 7 lines 55-62; col. 8 lines 8-12; col. 8 lines 21-31], and a motor/machine connection terminal [Fig. 2, via 302; col. 3 lines 25-28] configured to enable the modular control unit to couple directly [interpreted as coupled, with potentially intervening components] with the machine.

With respect to claims **31** and 34, Brown discloses a controller for a machine system [col. 3 lines 5-15], comprising: an on-machine base [Fig. 1, 300] comprising a machine protection device [Fig. 1, 200]; and a control unit [Fig. 6, the master control emergency stop module 100; col. 7 lines 60-62, see col. 7 lines 15-63] comprising control circuitry [col. 9 lines 3-14; col. 9 lines 66-67 and col. 10 lines 1-11] configured to directly control [all modes of coupling are anticipated, col. 7 lines 15-31] at least one

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machine in the machine system, wherein the control unit is selectable from a plurality of different types of control units having different types of control circuitry [col. 7 lines 55-62; col. 8 lines 8-12; col. 8 lines 21-31], the control unit is replaceably mountable to the on-machine base, and the on-machine base and the control unit are cooperative to provide desired on-machine controllability.

With respect to claim 79, see the combined comments for claims 1, 16, 31, 34, and 51 under Brown above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10-11, and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knox et al, Publication No. US 2004/0252421, in view of Hollenbeck, Patent No. 5,557,182.

With respect to Claims 10 and 22, Knox teaches the controller of Claims 1 and 16 respectively, but does not teach a soft start machine controller. Hollenbeck teaches a control unit that comprises a soft start machine controller [col. 12 lines 13-14].

Knox and Hollenbeck are analogous means of controlling motors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to specify soft start control capability to Knox, as taught by Hollenbeck, for the purpose of

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including the benefits of soft start control to the motor. Soft start capability is desirable to prevent stressing the power supply as well as the motor windings from sudden loading, which is well known to shorten the lifespan of electrical equipment.

With respect to Claims 11 and 23, Knox teaches the controller of Claims 1 and Claims 16 respectively, but does not teach a variable frequency machine drive. Knox's programmable device is implicitly capable of controlling/protecting any motor in general [par. 0002; par 0010], including a variable frequency machine drive. However, this is not elaborated upon in the specification.

Hollenbeck teaches a control unit for a motor that comprises a variable frequency machine drive [col. 4 lines 47-52].

Knox and Hollenbeck are analogous means of controlling motors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add variable frequency control capability to Knox, as taught by Hollenbeck, for the purpose of including the benefits of variable frequency control to the motor. Variable frequency machine drives are a well known and desirable means of controlling induction motors because this is an efficient means of motor control that results in less wasted power.

Claims 10-11, 22-23, 29 and 57-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haudry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,879,230, in view of Hollenbeck, Patent No. 5,557,182.

With respect to Claims 10, 22, 29, and 58, Haudry teaches the controller of Claims 1, 16, etc. respectively, but does not teach a soft start machine controller.

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Hollenbeck teaches a control unit that comprises a soft start machine controller [col. 12 lines 13-14].

Haudry and Hollenbeck are analogous means of controlling motors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to specify soft start control capability to Haudry, as taught by Hollenbeck, for the purpose of including the benefits of soft start control to the motor. Soft start capability is desirable to prevent stressing the power supply as well as the motor windings from sudden loading, which is well-known to shorten the lifespan of electrical equipment.

With respect to Claims 11, 23, and 57, Haudry teaches the controller of Claims 1 and Claims 16 respectively, but does not teach a variable frequency machine drive. Hollenbeck teaches a control unit for a motor that comprises a variable frequency machine drive [col. 4 lines 47-52].

Haudry and Hollenbeck are analogous means of controlling motors. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add variable frequency control capability to Haudry, as taught by Hollenbeck, for the purpose of including the benefits of variable frequency control to the motor. Variable frequency machine drives are a well-known and desirable means of controlling induction motors because this is an efficient means of motor control that results in less wasted power.

Claims 1, 2-9, 14-16, 17-21, 24-26, 28-32, 34, 51-53, 56, 59, 60-65, 67, 70, 72-73 and 76-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haudry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,879,230.

With respect to Claims 1, 16 and 51, Haudry discloses a machine, comprising: a motor [col. 4 lines 7-16]; and a motor controller [Fig. 1], comprising: a modular base [Fig. 1, housing 1] comprising motor protection circuitry [Fig. 1; 14, 16, 18]; such as a short circuit [col. 2 lines 40-50] tripping disconnect [Fig. 1, 16 and trip device 18] which is mounted in the base [as shown in Fig. 1]; and a **modular motor control unit** [Fig. 1; comprising protection and control module 2 with removable control or communication module 3] coupled to the modular base [Fig. 3; col. 2 lines 34-38; col. 3 lines 5-15] and comprising motor control circuitry [col. 1 lines 24-33; col. 4 lines 7-16] cooperatively operable with the motor protection circuitry, wherein the modular motor control unit is selectively replaceable from a plurality of different types of motor control units [col. 3 lines 5-10; col. 3 lines 41-44; col. 3 lines 54-62; col. 3 lines 63-67; col. 4 lines 7-16] and a machine connection terminal [Fig. 1, 24, 25] configured to enable the modular control unit to couple directly [interpreted as coupled, with potentially intervening components] with the machine.

Haudry does not explicitly disclose that Fig. 1 housing 1 is mounted on a motor; however, this is an obvious modification to make based on what is conventionally known in the art; and one of ordinary skill would mount Haudry's Fig. 1 housing 1 to a motor for the well-known benefit of accomplishing local, onsite control/protection of the motor. At the very least, this is known to reduce wiring costs of the installation.

With respect to claim 79, Haudry discloses a controller for a machine system, comprising: a **modular control unit** [Fig. 1; comprising protection and control module 2 with removable control or communication module 3], comprising: control circuitry [col. 1 lines 24-33; col. 2 lines 34-37, col. 4 lines 7-16] configured to directly control a machine; **a first connector** [Fig. 1, 26A,B; 24,25; alternatively 23] configured to couple with an **on-machine motor protection base** [Fig. 1, housing 1] to enable cooperative operability of the control circuitry with motor protection circuitry [Fig. 1, 16, 18] of the on-machine motor-protection base; and a second connector [Fig. 1, 19A,B; 24,25; alternatively 23] configured to couple with the machine to enable control of the machine by the modular control unit [col. 2 lines 34-50]; wherein the modular control unit is selected from and interchangeable with a plurality of modular control units each having different control circuitry [col. 3 lines 5-10; col. 3 lines 41-44; col. 3 lines 54-62; col. 3 lines 63-67; col. 4 lines 7-16].

Haudry does not explicitly disclose that module 2 (protection and control) and module 3 (communication) can be one module. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would know that combining the two modules into one would yield benefits inherent to integration, such as manufacturing cost reduction and reduced module count.

With respect to Claims 31 and 34, Haudry discloses a controller [Fig. 1] for a system of distributed machines [col. 4 lines 7-15; the motor, the motor's load, mechanical subassembly 14], comprising: a machine mountable base [Fig. 1, DIN rail on housing 1], comprising: a short-circuit protective device [col. 2 lines 40-50]; and a

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disconnect device [Fig. 1, 16 and trip device 18]; and a modular control unit [Fig. 1; comprising protection and control module 2 with removable control or communication module 3] replaceably mountable to the machine mountable base [Fig. 3; col. 2 lines 34-39, col. 3 lines 5-15] wherein the modular control unit comprises control circuitry configured to directly control at least one machine [col. 4 lines 7-15; the motor, the motor's load, mechanical subassembly 14] in the system of distributed machines.

With respect to Claims 2-9, 14, 15, 17-21, 24-26, 28, 30, 32, 52, 56, 59, and 60-63, see above remarks and Haudry's disclosure.

With respect to Claims 70 and 72, Haudry discloses that the modular control unit comprises an output connector [Fig. 3, power terminal blocks 13b] configured to couple with the machine/at least one of the machines [the motor being controlled col. 4 lines 7-16; the cable is the power cables connected to power terminal block 13b to supply the motor; col. 1 lines 63-67].

With respect to Claims 65, 67, and 73, Haudry discloses that the modular control unit is selected from and interchangeable with a plurality of modular control units, each having different control circuitry [col. 3 lines 5-10; col. 3 lines 41-44; col. 3 lines 54-62; col. 3 lines 63-67; col. 4 lines 7-16].

With respect to Claims 76-78, Haudry discloses the on-machine motor protection base comprises a short-circuit protective device [Fig. 1, 16 and trip device 18; col. 2 lines 40-50] housed therein.

Claims 80-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haudry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,879,230, in view of Knox et al., Publication No. 2004/0252421.

With respect to claim 80, Haudry discloses the second connector as recited in claim 79, but does not disclose an external cable disposed on an external surface of the modular control unit while the modular control unit is coupled to the on-machine motor protection base.

Knox discloses an external cable [Fig. 2, 19] disposed on the external surface of a modular control unit [Fig. 2, 20] while the modular control unit is coupled to the on-machine motor protection base [Fig. 3, 41, 44, 46].

Haudry and Knox are analogous motor protection devices with user interfaces. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize an umbilical cable, as taught by Knox, with the control interface 3 of Haudry for the benefit of allowing users to remotely (which is inherently safer with respect to moving machinery) monitor/control the motor/machine to which the interface is connected.

With respect to claim 81, Haudry discloses the connectors as recited in claim 79, does not explicitly show connectors disposed on opposite sides of the modular control unit; however, one of ordinary skill in the art can easily revise placement of the connectors as the situation requires [i.e. connector placement is a design choice, in view of Haudry's existing connectors].

With respect to claim 82, Haudry discloses wherein the modular control unit comprises a user interface [Fig. 1, 3], and both the user interface and the second connector are externally accessible [externally electrically accessible via I/O 39C. Fig. 5] while the modular control unit is coupled to the on-machine motor protection base [as shown in Figs 1 and 3].

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments received 03/21/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. See above for response to traversal of restriction. All arguments with respect to amendments have been addressed in the action above. Any pre-existing arguments have already been responded to and is already of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DHARTI PATEL whose telephone number is (571)272-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford Barnie can be reached on 571-272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DHARTI PATEL/
Examiner, Art Unit 2836
08/31/2009